MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The cost of the repair is only Rs. 600 and odd. The work would have had the supervision which the Code requires.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Am I to understand that no other officer had anything to do with this repair and that the whole repair was conducted on the sole responsibility of the Section Officer?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I am unable to say whether under the rules such a work which costs only Rs. 600 and odd requires the supervision of the Sub-Division Officer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether in this particular matter the Executive Engineer or the Sub-Division Officer supervised the work?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That will have to be ascertained.

Bridges across the Chirayinkil Canal.

10. MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of the ruinous state of the two foot-bridges across the Chirayinkil canal in the Chirayinkil taluk;

(*b*) whether any representations have been received by them for the restoration of these bridges; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken by them in the matter?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) An estimate has been sanctioned for constructing a foot-bridge on the 16th mile of the Trivandrum-Shoranur canal. It is reported that the other bridge on the 17th mile is not at present necessary.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to part (*c*) of the answer may I know whether a report has been called for from the P. W. D. authorities in the locality to the effect that the restoration of that bridge was unnecessary?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is based on the Chief Engineer's report. I am unable to say whether the Chief Engineer had the benefit of the local officer's investigation on the spot.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): What is the authority on which the answer is based?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The highest authority in the Public Works Department the Chief

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether any officer made any local investigation to find out whether the bridge was necessary or not?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): That will have to be ascertained from the Chief Engineer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): My interpellation was whether the restoration of a ruined bridge was necessary, and the answer given is that it is not necessary. I want information as to the basis on which the answer has been given. If the member in charge is not able to give such information there is absolutely no use in asking interpellations and in the Government answering them.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Chief Secretary has told you, Mr. Nilakanta Pillai, that the answer is based on the report of the Chief Engineer. Government can call for reports only from Heads of Departments, and in this case they called for a report from the Chief Engineer; and the information has been placed before the House. Your further question is whether the Chief Engineer sent up the report in consultation with the local officers or not. Mr. Ramasubba Aiyar says he wants notice of this question. At present he is not in a position to answer it. It seems to me to be perfectly fair.

Trivandrum Municipal Council.

11. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that (i) a resolution dated the 26th Chingam 1103, *re* the appointment of a Municipal President, etc., was forwarded to the President, Municipal Council, Trivandrum, signed by 12 members, of whom 11 are elected, and (ii) the President refused to board the resolution on the agenda;

(*b*) the total number of members in the Trivandrum Municipal Council and the number of elected members among them; and

(*c*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, whether they will call for the information and lay it on the table?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) No. But a resolution on the subject dated the 26th Tulam 1103, signed by 12 members was received by the President.

(ii) The resolution was not included in the agenda by the President as he considered that it was not in order.

(*b*) There are 23 Councillors in the Trivandrum Municipal Council of whom 16 are elected.

(*c*) In the light of the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*) this does not arise.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With reference to part (2) (*a*) may I know whether any discussion took place on the resolution forwarded to the President of the Municipal Council?

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